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TIOCM/I-203

INTERROGATION OF HERBERT MARINIOK AND HERBERT KORN,  
FORMER MEMBERS OF THE REICHPOST AND OKW/CHI.

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1. Attached is the report on the interrogations of Herbert MARINIOK and Herbert KORN, former members of the Reichpost and OKW/Chi, carried out by Captain MARY C. LANE of Army Security Agency, Europe, at BERLIN on 3 - 4 February, 1947.
2. Descriptions of Telegraphic Systems intercepted by the Germans and a Description of X Geraet, are attached to the report as Tabs (A) and (B).
3. X Geraet was the apparatus employed to intercept trans-Atlantic telephone conversations.

TICOM  
16th April, 1947.

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PART I

INTERROGATION OF MARINIOK, HERBERT LEX

1. Introduction:

MARINIOK, Herbert Max, German national now employed as radio technician and operator by Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in Berlin, was interrogated in October 1946 by Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) Region VIII (Berlin) on a suspicion that he possessed radio transmitting equipment and was operating illegally as an amateur. Search of his home by the CIC revealed no apparatus and MARINIOK stated that the equipment he had possessed had been confiscated by the German Army in 1945. Further interrogation revealed that MARINIOK had worked as a radio technician during the war with the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (OKW) on an apparatus which was able to intercept trans-Atlantic telephone conversation. This fact was reported to the Army Security Agency Europe and the following is a report of the interrogation of MARINIOK held at Berlin 3 - 4 February 1947 by a representative of the Army Security Agency, Europe concerning MARINIOK's work with the OKW.

2. Biography and Personal Appearance:

Herbert Max MARINIOK was born 1 March 1906 in Berlin. He began to learn radio operating in 1925 and in May 1928 received his license as a first-class radio operator. From 1925 to 1 January 1932 he was employed by the German firm Ueberseefunk (Trans-Oceanic Radio) which had connections with places in North and South America, China, Nippon, etc. MARINIOK was employed as radio technician and operator of the first-class between New York and Berlin.

On 1 January 1932 Ueberseefunk was taken over by the German Reichspost. MARINIOK then became an employee of the Reichspost and remained as such throughout the war. On 1 December 1939 he was made Telegrapheninspektor of the Reichspost. In 1941 the Reichspost ordered him to Oberkommando der Wehrmacht/Chiffrierabteilung (OKW/Chi) where he worked until the end of the war although he remained an employee of the Reichspost.

While MARINIOK was with OKW/Chi he worked first at the intercept station in Berlin-Dahlem and later with the intercept station in Ludwigsfelde, where he was in charge of trans-Atlantic telephone interception. In April 1945 with other members of the station at Ludwigsfelde he was taken to the Schliersee, Bavaria, and from there to Austria where he remained until his capture by the Americans in May 1945.

MARINIOK is now employed as radio technician and operator by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in Berlin. He lives in Berlin-Neukoelln, Weichselplatz 4 with his wife (nee Margarete Hoffmann) and one child, Klaus. He is a man of average size, approximately 1.75 metres tall, has thin blonde hair, pale blue, prominent eyes, a ruddy complexion and is clean shaven.

3. History of X Gerat:

According to MARINIOK, one Dr. LOTZE and a Mr. MUCHE were co-inventors of a machine used to intercept trans-Atlantic telephone calls, including some of those of former President Roosevelt and former Prime Minister Churchill.

This apparatus was developed by the inventors in the research laboratory communications office of the Waffenamt at Staats, Kreis Gardelegen, about 75 miles west of Berlin (now in the Russian Zone). This apparatus, known simply as X Gerat, was operated in the laboratory at Staats until

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1 - 2 January 1944 when the laboratory was destroyed by bombing. About three months before this, however, a second and better apparatus had been built and this machine, the second X Geract, was kept in the Berlin Zoo air raid shelter until August - September 1944 when it was moved to a bunker especially prepared for it in Ludwigsfelde.

The bunker in Ludwigsfelde was described as a room 18 metres long, 4 metres wide and 4.5 metres deep. Above the level of the ground was a concrete pill-shaped box 3.75 metres high topped with 20 centimetres of sand. The room itself was divided into two parts by a partition running lengthwise. On one side of the partition were ordinary receiving sets, on the other side X Geract. Two entrances led into the bunker, one from either end.

X Geract remained in the bunker until 13 - 14 April 1945 when it was moved with the two single-sideband receivers attached to it to the Schliersee in Bavaria. At the Schliersee, however, only one day's work was done before it became necessary for personnel to move to Austria. The single-sideband receivers were dismantled into 30 or more pieces, loaded onto a raft, and sunk in the lake about 300 - 400 metres from the shore. X Geract, according to MARINIOK, was sunk in the same place in one piece, except for the synchronising device which was sunk separately. No part of X Geract was destroyed before being sunk, but no action was taken to prevent the corrosive effects of the water upon the metal.

MARINIOK was unable to state the exact spot where X Geract was sunk in the Schliersee, but said that KORN would know. He stated, however, that German soldiers had sunk nearby about 20 bazookas and that these might endanger attempts to salvage the machinery.

#### 4. Description of X Geract:

MARINIOK stated that KORN knew more about the X Geract than he. His description of it was as follows :-

There were two single-sideband receivers, one for traffic from New York; one for traffic from London. From these receivers scrambled talk passed to the X Geract. The size of this apparatus was approximately 1.80 metres long, 1.65 metres high, and 50 - 60 centimetres deep. It weighed about 300 pounds. On the front was a row of oscillators, and beneath these six lamps which glowed intermittently every 20 seconds to indicate whether the machine was or was not in phase. On the top of the machine was the synchronising device which consisted of four "watches". This device was approximately one metre long and 40 centimetres high. MARINIOK said that all "watches" worked together by means of meshing gears. Further description of this mechanism was referred to KORN. The most important part to be retrieved, according to MARINIOK, was the synchronising device.

#### 5. Success of X Geract:

MARINIOK stated that during 1943 the trans-Atlantic telephone conversations were clear. After August 1944, however, strict control over the conversations and the use of a "code-book" by the participants in the conversation reduced intelligibility. It was understood that the "decipherers" were not able to make anything out of what was intercepted.

#### 6. Similar Apparatus Evolved by Reichpost:

MARINIOK stated that the German Reichspost had also been interested in the development of an apparatus to intercept telephone conversations. It had conducted some experiments under a Dr. VETTERLEIN but the work was interrupted by bombings. MARINIOK stated that the Reichspost machine, known as "gg5", was last in the neighbourhood of Regensburg, Bavaria. It was the same type as X Geract but not so successful.

7. Statements concerning LOTZE and MUCHE:

Dr. LOTZE (first name unknown) was described as a large man approximately 1.8 metres tall, with blonde hair, blue eyes and good features. He had been a member of the NSDAP and MARINIOK was of the opinion that he would not tell much about the machine if he were found. MARINIOK had last seen LOTZE in April 1945 as LOTZE was going to the experimental laboratory at Staats. This is now in the Russian zone but at that time was under the control of the British. MARINIOK thought that LOTZE might be working for the British somewhere.

Mr. MUCHE was described as a small man about 1.72 metres tall, with black hair, clean-shaven face, and of a very silent manner. He had built the second X Geract according to plans made by Dr. LOTZE and would know everything about the machine. Like LOTZE, MUCHE had been a member of the NSDAP. MARINIOK did not know where he was now.

8. Explanation of Tab (A):

MARINIOK had presented to the CIC at the first interrogation an outline with diagrams of the various telegraphic systems which had been intercepted by the Germans during the war. The translation of this document as correlated by the interrogator with MARINIOK is attached as Tab (A).

PART II

Interrogation of KORN, Herbert.

1. Introduction:

KORN, Herbert Richard Friedrich, German national now employed as radio technician by Radio Corporation of American (RCA) in Berlin, was interrogated in October 1946 by the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) Region VIII (Berlin) following a tip given by MARINIOK. KORN was interrogated at Berlin 4 February 1947 by a representative of the Army Security Agency, Europe, concerning his connection with the interception of trans-Atlantic telephone conversations.

2. Biography and Personal Appearance:

Herbert Richard Friedrich KORN was born 12 December 1915 in Berlin - Charlottenburg. Until April 1936 KORN received a normal education in the schools of Berlin although from his 16th year he had professed an interest in radio work and was an amateur operator. From April 1936 to October 1936 KORN performed his labour service for the German Government, and then returned to Berlin where he received radio training at the Siemens firm in Berlin until May 1937. In May 1937 he entered the Technical High School in Berlin to study radio engineering. This training was interrupted in November 1937 by KORN's being ordered to military service with the Wehrmacht.

From November 1937 to November 1941 KORN served with the German Army as a member of the infantry. He participated after 1939 in the invasion of Poland and France. In 1940 his unit was assigned the task of instructing Rumanian troops in the German manual of arms and this he did until he entered Russia with the invading German army on 22 June 1941. On July 1941, however, he was injured in an automobile accident and a broken knee bone kept him from more active duty. Released from the hospital in November 1941 he returned to Berlin to pursue his study of radio engineering in the technical high school. The students were formed into "studying companies" in preparation for duty as technical officers. Before being commissioned,



however, KORN was ordered in April 1945 to duty with the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht/Chiffrierabteilung (OKW/Chi) and was assigned to the intercept station at Ludwigsfelde. He served as radio engineer at Ludwigsfelde until that station was abandoned in April 1945; went to the Schliersee with other members of the station, and from there to Bavaria where he was captured. The highest grade attained by KORN during the war was that of Wachtmeister.

KORN has been employed by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in Berlin as a radio technician since 23 October 1945. He lives in Berlin - Charlottenburg Spandauerberg 3 with his mother, Mrs. Augusta KORN. His father is deceased; he is unmarried. His appearance is unprepossessing. Of slight build, thin and weak, pale, near-sighted and nervous, he gave the impression of being interested only in radio and emphasized that his interest was not that of a technician but of a research analyst. KORN stated that Dr. KOTOWSKY, who had been removed by the Russians as a scientist in October 1946, had been a former professor of his and had offered him a position with him at one time. He was certain that if he had not obtained the job at RCA he would have been taken to Russia with Dr. KOTOWSKY.

### 3. History of X Geract:

KORN confirmed MARINIOK's statement that X Geract was invented by Dr. LOTZE assisted by Mr. MUCHE to enable the Germans to intercept trans-Atlantic telephone conversations. Asked about the history of the apparatus, however, he stated that he had been concerned with it only since its installation at Ludwigsfelde in August 1944. He had worked with it until April 1945 when it had been taken to the Schliersee, and he had himself been one of the group which accompanied it by truck. KORN had also been on the raft which had dropped the apparatus into the Schliersee on 1 - 2 May 1945. Contrary to MARINIOK's statement, KORN claimed that the apparatus was sunk in several sections and not in one piece. The frame, which had consisted of three large parts, was dropped in sections, and the compartments of the apparatus itself were dropped separately. KORN was certain he could pick out the exact spot where the parts were sunk, and stated that the nearest village was MIESBACH. Although he was certain that the construction of the apparatus could be seen should the parts be retrieved, KORN thought that no part would be usable because of the corrosive influence of the water.

### 4. Description of X Geract:

KORN gave the following measurements for the X Geract with its single sideband receivers: 3 metres long, 2 metres high, and 1.5 metres in depth. The weight of all he gave as about 500 kilograms. KORN had already handed to the CIC a description of X Geract with its method of working, and this is attached to the report as Tab (B).

### 5. Success of X Geract:

KORN stated that although he had no exact knowledge of the importance of the conversations overheard he knew that conversations of Roosevelt and Churchill concerning Allied prisoners in Italy and the plans for their liberation by the Allied troops were discussed. He stated that he had also heard former Prime Minister Churchill speaking to Mr. Harry Hopkins, Mr. Harriman, and Lord Halifax. He had also heard Queen Wilhelmina speaking with Prince Bernhard in Dutch. Each conversation was either translated immediately and passed on to the evaluators or recorded on discs and later translated. He assumed that the intelligence gained was important since there was a continual warning from the technicians operating the trans-Atlantic telephones: "Warning: Enemy might hear".

5.

6. Similar Apparatus Evolved by Reichspost:

KORN confirmed the statement of MARINIOK that the German Reichspost had worked on a similar machine. This machine operated in the Regensburg area but was not so good as the X Geraet. Like MARINIOK he did not know what had become of the Reichspost apparatus.

7. Statements concerning Men Associated with X Geraet:

KORN gave the names of the following men associated with X Geraet :

Co-inventors:

LOTZE, Dr. (first name unknown). Credited by KORN with the invention of X Geraet. KORN was unable to describe LOTZE other than that he was a large, thin man, approximately 1,8 metres tall. He had formerly lived in Berlin, but his present location was unknown to KORN. At one time he was reported to be living in the Russian Zone.

MUCHE (first name unknown). Assistant to Dr. LOTZE. Had lived prior to April 1945 in Berlin-Charlottenburg, but was last heard of in Munich.

Technicians:

BUHELDT, Otto. Worked as a technician in the recording section. Formerly a resident of Berlin, KORN believed he was now residing in Klein Marnow, Mecklenburg, Russian Zone.

HUSSLER, Karl. Was present when the apparatus was sunk in the Schliersee. HUSSLER, about 35 years of age, is now residing in Ludwigshaven, (French Zone) on Ostmarkstrasse (number unknown).

KEHLER, Waldemar. KORN stated that KEHLER was about 31 years old, was last known to be in Husum, Schleswig-Holstein (fall of 1945), and was thought to have been working at that time for British communications.

SALZBRUNN, Herbert. Worked as a government engineer on the X Geraet project. SALZBRUNN was on the truck which took the apparatus from Ludwigsfelde to the Schliersee and was present when it was sunk. Present location unknown to KORN.

SCHNADELBACH, Martin. Was present when the apparatus was sunk in the Schliersee. SCHNADELBACH, about 32 years of age, is now residing at Siebethsbergstrasse 10, Wilhelmshaven (British Zone). Occupation unknown to KORN.

Interpreters:

VON BORSIG (first name unknown). Had lived in the United States for several years as representative of the Borsig Locomotive Works, a German concern. BORSIG was scheduled to go to Bavaria with other members of the unit operating X Geraet, but missed the train for reasons unknown. The last news KORN had had was that BORSIG was farming in the Russian Zone near Prenslau.

HYLLA (first name unknown). Had been a Columbia University professor for five years, sometime prior to 1933. Upon his return to Germany he had been discredited by the Nazis as an educator. He was drafted for use as an interpreter because of his knowledge of English, was taken to Bavaria with the unit operating X Geraet. KORN did not know his present location.

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KALIBERG, Hans Werner. KORN stated that he was now working for Office of Military Government United States (OMGUS) in Berlin: address: Berlin, Zehlendorf, Sundgauerstrasse No. 7 (?).

KRONE, Otto. Described by KORN as about 44 years old, though he appears younger. KRONE had spent about fifteen years in the United States prior to his return to Germany in 1941, first in New York City, where he maintained an interior decorating business, and later as a German Embassy clerk in Washington, D.C. He was now residing in Harburg (exact location unknown) and was thought by KORN to be working for the British Army.

KORN stated that all of the technicians know less about the X Geract than himself, but that the interpreters could tell better than he the type of intelligence gained from the conversations intercepted. He himself had been interested only in the technical aspect of the work.

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TAB A

TYPES OF TELEGRAPHIC SYSTEMS INTERCEPTED BY THE GERMANS  
(with illustrations)

I. Morse - normal

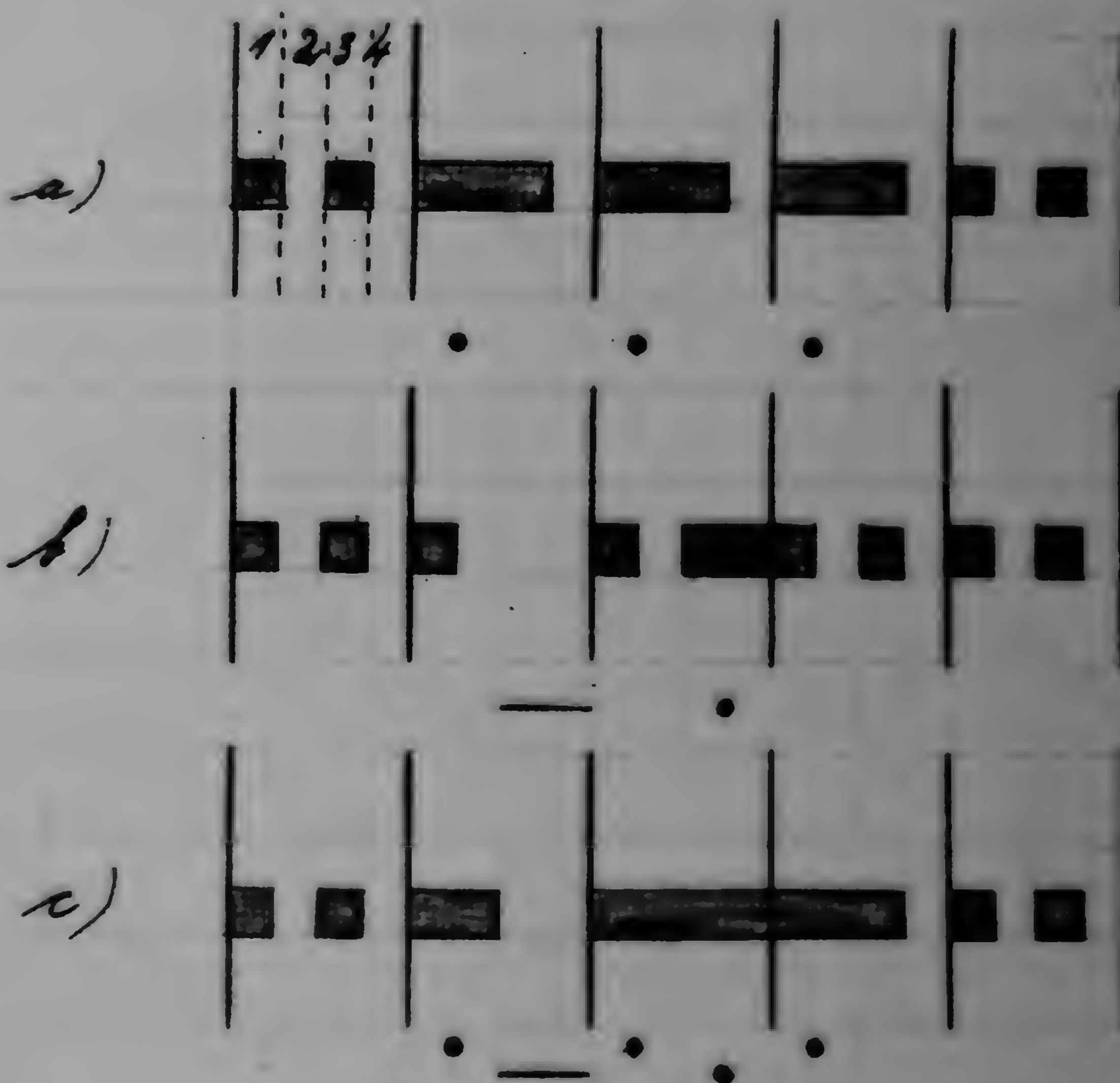
II. Morse - negative

In this system the pauses are impulses and the impulses pauses.

III. Multiple Morse

Here the normal Morse signs are completely lost. Dots, dashes, and pauses of the Morse alphabet are converted into other impulse systems. Telegrams are boxed in one another by means of two or three channels (so-called Multiplex-system). To intercept this type one needs only an impulse recorder.

A. Two channels - both alike



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Key: Channel 1 Channel 2

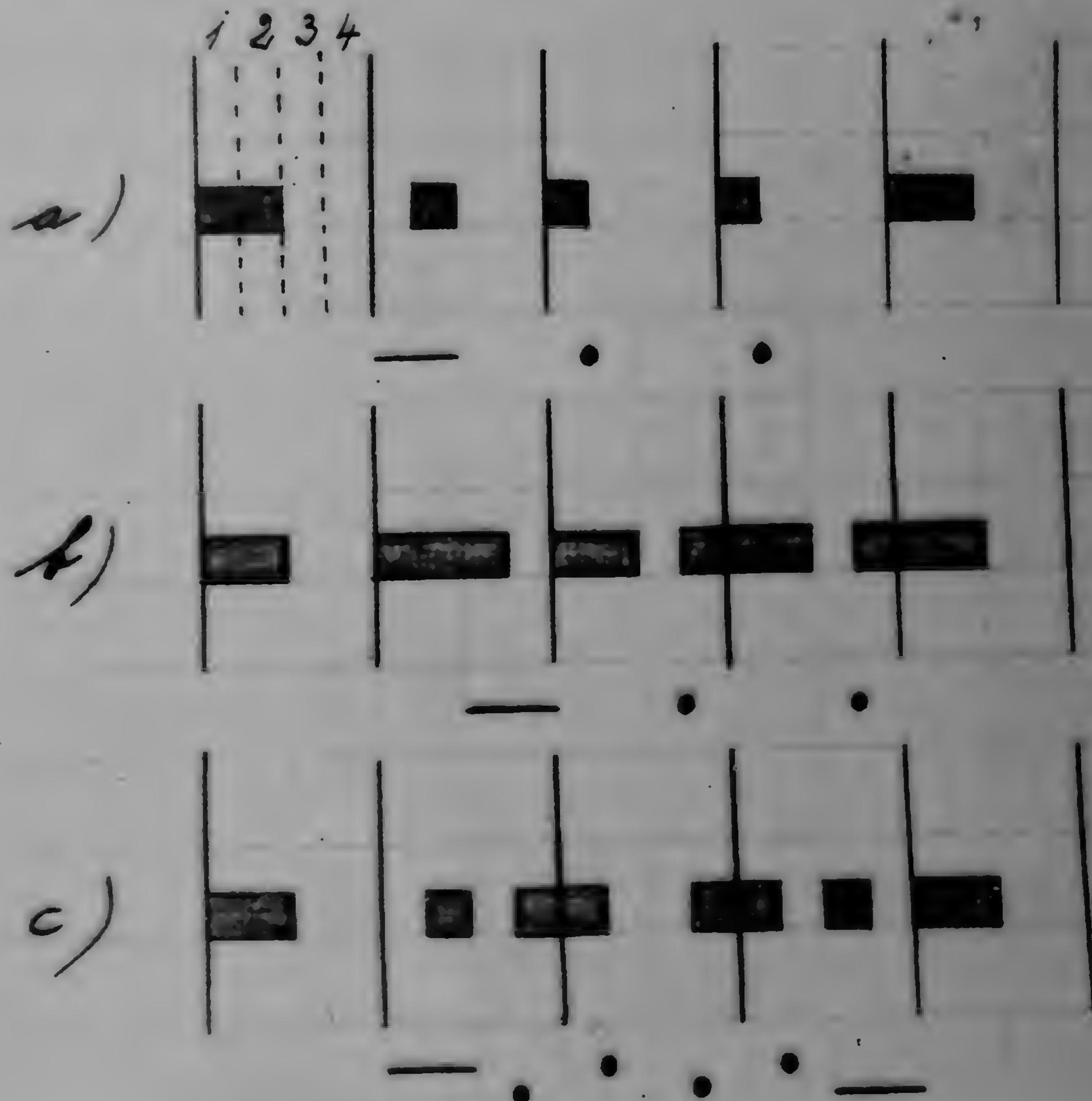


(a) First channel working. Second channel not working.  
Letter "s" with preceding pause.

(b) First channel not working. Second channel working.  
Letter "n" with preceding pause.







(c) Both channels working.  
Letters "s" and "n".

B. Two channels - both different



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Key: Channel 1 Channel 2

	Channel 1	Channel 2
Dot		
Dash		
Pause		

- (a) First channel working. Second channel not working.  
Letter "d" with preceding pause on first channel.
- (b) First channel not working. Second channel working.  
Letter "d" with preceding pause on second channel.
- (c) Both channels working.  
Letter "d" on first channel; "u" on second channel.

C. Besides these two systems, approximately eight similar systems were intercepted by the Germans.

D. Two channel - lengthened impulses

Each impulse is lengthened to two more units. Morse is received which is immediately readable. At the same time the second channel works with doubled length of signs.

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1 2 3  
[Redacted]

1 2 3  
[Redacted]

1 2 3  
[Redacted]

1 2 3  
[Redacted]

1 2 3  
[Redacted]

*msw*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Key:  
(a) Hole  
(b) Letter "N"  
(c) Letter "U"

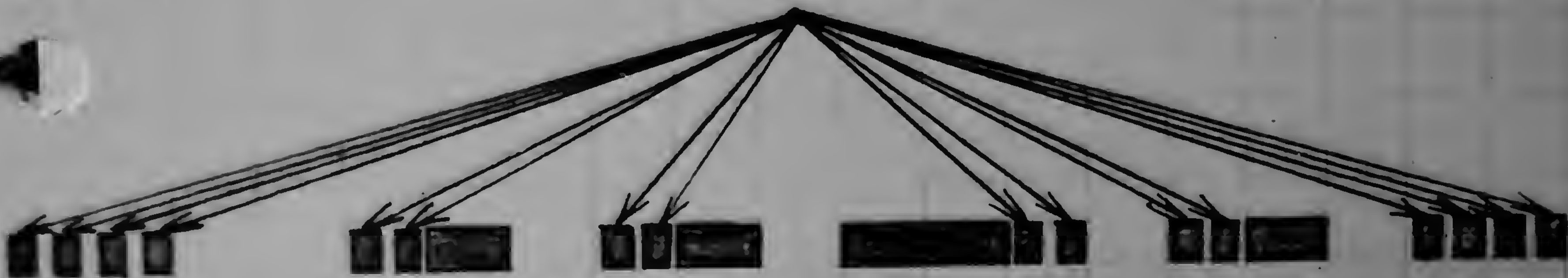
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E. One channel - so-called Malta System

One channel system with still readable writing. Long impulses and short pauses are interrupted by short impulses.

PAUSE



Key:

Blanks -- dashes  
Impulses -- dots  
Short impulses -- pauses

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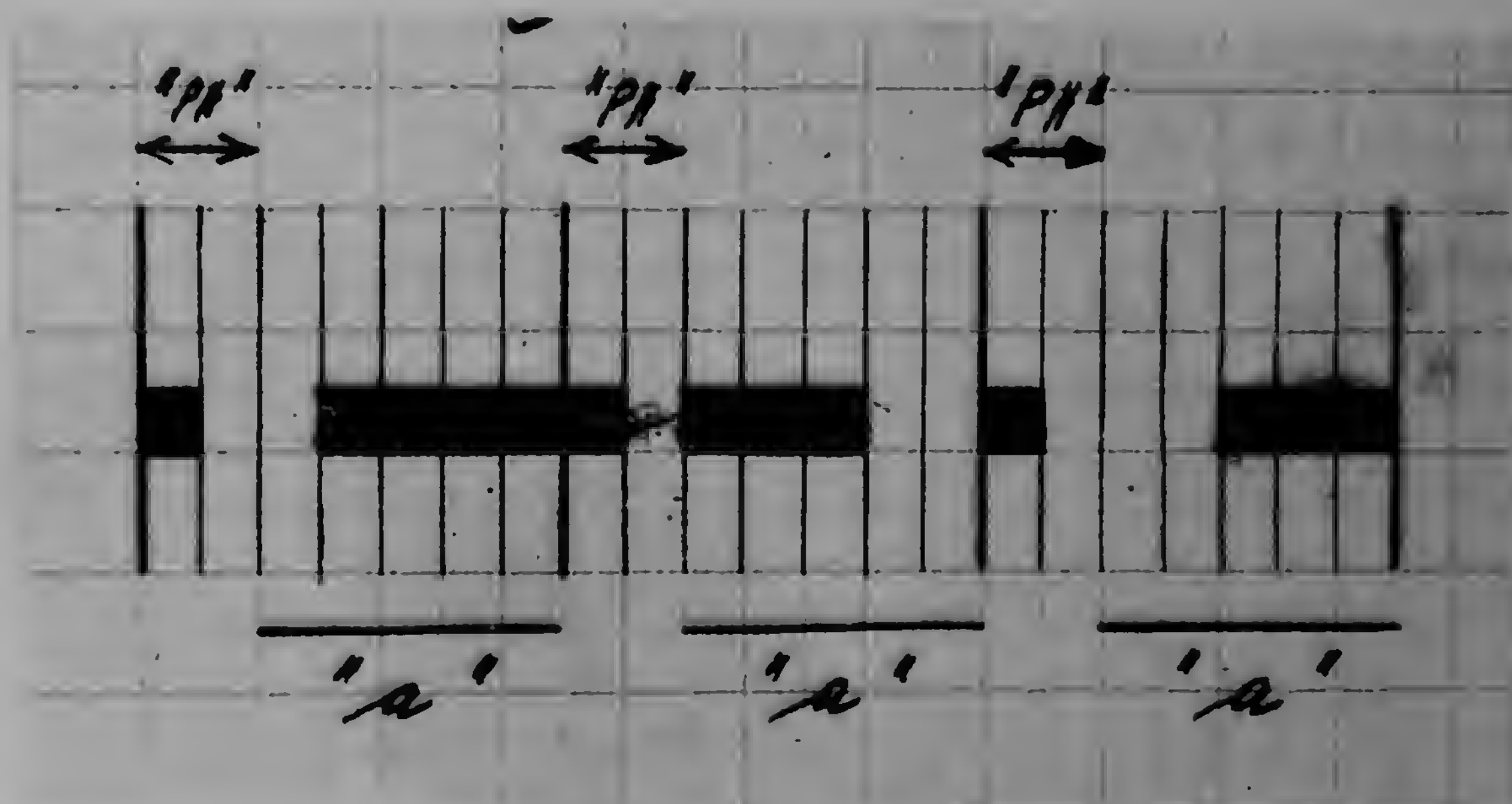


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IV. Multiple Teletype - or Baudot System (Printer)

Baudot five-place alphabet used. Phase signs correspond in radio traffic to the five impulses. The phase sign can be different but a pause always follows a phase sign. This traffic is received and passed by teletype machines. Telegrams are boxed in one another.

A. Simple Teletype System:



Key:

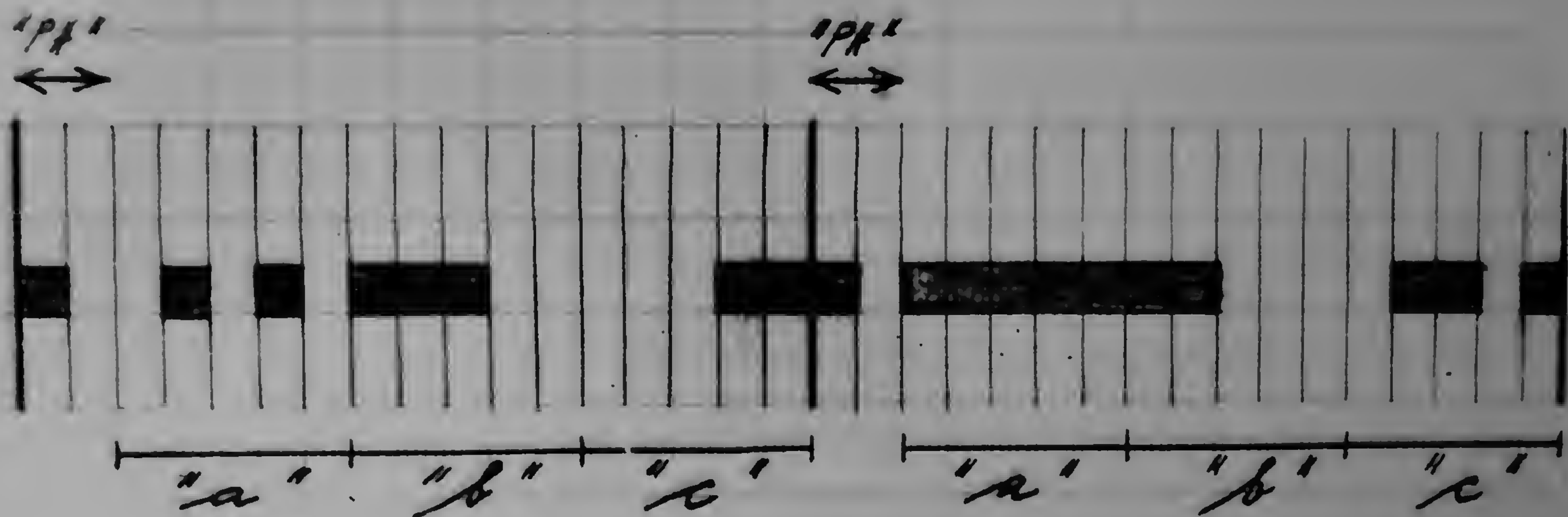
"PH" -- Phase sign with adjacent pause

"a" -- Teletype machine

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B. Multiple Teletype System



Key:

- "PH" -- Phase sign with adjacent pause
- "a" -- First teletype machine
- "b" -- Second teletype machine
- "c" -- Third teletype machine

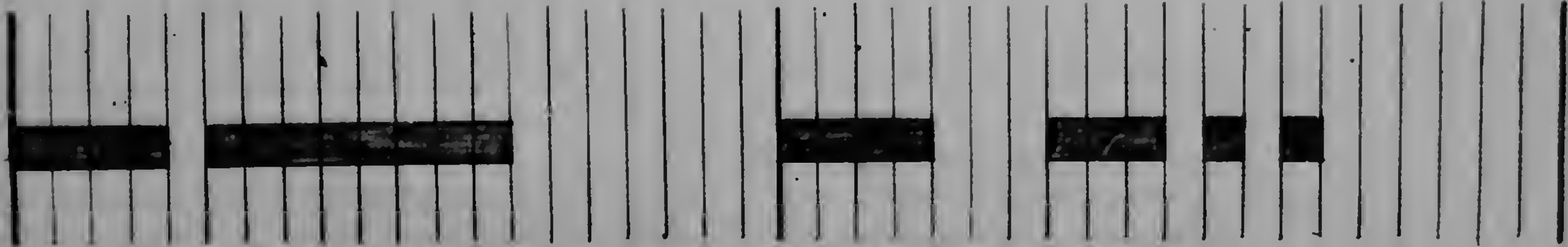
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"PH"

"PH"



"a" "b" "c"

"a" "b" "c"

Key:

- "PH" -- Phase sign with adjacent pause (5 impulses)
- "a" -- First teletype machine
- "b" -- Second teletype machine
- "c" -- Third teletype machine

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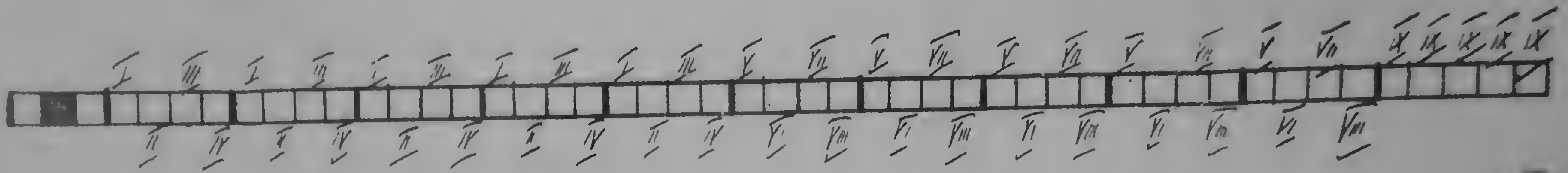
TAB A (Cont'd)

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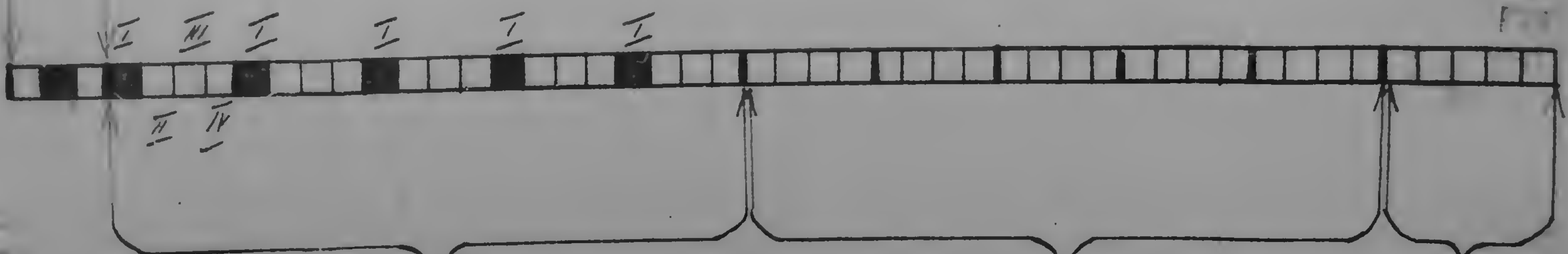
E. Nine Channel Teletype System (Moscow)

Two machine sets, each with four teletype machines, which are boxed into one another. At the end, a ninth teletype machine is added. The example demonstrates the division of the five impulses on the first teletype machine.

TAB A (Cont'd)



"PH"  
↔



1. Satz I-IV

2. Satz V-VII

IX

Key:

- "PH" - Phase sign with adjacent pause (3 impulses)
- Set I (I-IV) and Set 2 (V-VIII) --- Teletype machines
- IX - Ninth teletype machine

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**Piece** ..... 174

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